

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. By entry of this amendment, claims 12 and 30 have been amended, and new claims 32-35 have been added. Consequently, claims 12, 13, 18, 24, 26, and 30-35 are pending in this application. Claims 12, 13, 18, 24, 26, 30, and 31 were rejected as being anticipated by Votaw (US Pat. No. 370,028).

In a telephone interview on July 11, 2007, the undersigned discussed with Examiner Katherine Mitchell the above amendments to claims 12 and 30, and the additional feature of new claims 32-34. As explained in greater detail below, Examiner Mitchell agreed that Votaw does not appear to disclose or suggest the newly recited features of amended claim 12 and 30, and of new claims 32-34.

Claim 12 and 30, as amended, recite a shaft member including a cutout portion sized to receive the locking member in seating engagement, such that pivoting of the locking member out of the second position is prohibited while the locking member is in seating engagement with the at least one cut-out portion. In the above referenced telephone interview, Examiner Mitchell agreed that Votaw does not disclose or suggest a seating engagement between a shaft (screw shank c) and a locking member (arm b) which prohibits pivoting. As such, claims 12 and 30 are patentable over the cited reference and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 13, 18, 24, 26, 31 and new claims 32 and 33 are also patentable over the cited reference at least based on dependence on one of claims 12 and 30, and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

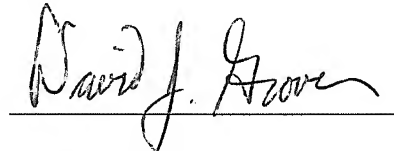
New claim 34 recites a retention means that secures a locking member in an engaged condition when the locking member is in a second position, such that pivoting of the locking member out of the second position is prohibited while the locking member is in the engaged condition, with the locking member being configured to be axially pulled away from the shaft and out of the engaged condition to allow the locking member to be pivoted from the second position to the first position. In the above referenced telephone interview, Examiner Mitchell agreed that Votaw does not disclose or suggest a locking member (arm b) that may be axially pulled away from a shaft (screw shank c) and out of an engaged condition to allow the locking

member to be pivoted from the second position to the first position. As such, claim 34 is patentable over the cited reference and is believed to be in condition for allowance. New claim 35 is also patentable over the cited reference at least based on dependence on claim 34, and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

In summary, independent claims 12, 30, and 34 are believed to be allowable. Further, the remaining pending dependent claims are allowable at least based on direct or indirect dependence from the corresponding allowable independent claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims of this application is respectfully solicited. Furthermore, if the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Grover", is written over a horizontal line.

Dated: July 13, 2007

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